

NEWS RELEASE

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ROBINSON MAN INDICTED FOR UNLAWFULLY DISPOSING OF PLEDGED CROPS

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 6, 2006, **BRIAN K. BOONE**, of Robinson, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois in a two-count indictment charging him with Conversion of Property, in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 714m(c). The violation is alleged to have taken place between October 12, 2004 and August 25, 2005 in Crawford County, Illinois.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The indictment alleges that **BOONE** willfully disposed of 21,000 bushels of soybeans and 30,000 bushels of corn that were mortgaged or pledged to the United States Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation.

The offense carries with it a penalty of not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Information for the indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the Office of Inspector General, United States Department of Agriculture. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Hudson.